

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Claims 1, 6-29, 31-41 and 43-55 remain in this application. Claim 30 has been canceled by this amendment. The amendments to claim 29 generally incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 30 and additional subject matter from claim 41. The other claims have been amended to improve the language and antecedence in a non-narrowing fashion.

No new matter is believed to have been added to the application by this amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1, 6-41 and 43-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claims 1 and 41, the Official Action asserts that it is not clear exactly when the force is released and how many holes there are. Additional issues have been raised in regards to antecedent basis.

The comments in the Official Action have been considered and the claims have been amended to be clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

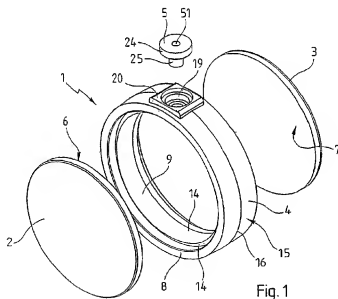
This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection based on HATSUKAZU

Claims 29, 30, 34 and 35 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by HATSUKAZU (JP 04-063210). Claims 31-33 and 36-40 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over HATSUKAZU. Claims 1, 6-28, 41 and 43-55 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over HATSUKAZU in view of MATOS et al. (U.S. patent 4,257,988).

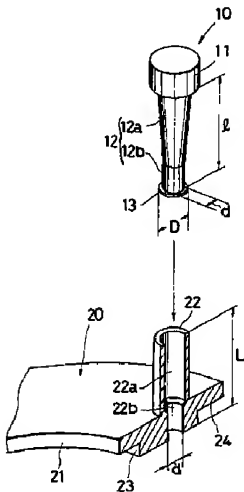
These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention pertains to obtaining an optical lens and joint using a mold that is illustrated, by way of example, in Figure 1 of the application reproduced below.



Amended independent claims 29 and previously presented claims 1 and 41 all set forth that the body (25) of the plug (5) **has a free end.**

HATSUKAZU pertains to an injection stopper of gasket for molding plastic lenses. The Official Action refers to Figures 1 and 2 of HATSUKAZU, which are reproduced below.



HATSUKAZU sets forth an injection stopper 10 that includes a large diameter head portion 11, a columnar portion 12 continuous with and narrower in diameter than the large diameter

head portion 11. The columnar portion 12 has a tapered diameter portion 12a and a narrow diameter portion 12b. A stopper flange 13 is formed on the tip end of the narrow diameter 12b.

The Official Action asserts that HATSUKAZU discloses the basic claimed annular seal and it has been obvious modifications regarding essentially lacking certain aspects of the instant seal.

However, in HATSUKAZU, the annular gasket 20 is formed from a perimeter wall 21 from which protrudes an injection pipe 22 having an outer-side large diameter portion 22a and an inner edge portion-side small diameter portion 22b having a diameter d corresponding the diameter of portion 12b of injection stopper 10. The flange 13 has a diameter D larger than diameter d . Portion 12a of columnar portion 12 is arranged to lie within portion 22a in such a way that it forms an interval with portion 22a.

When injection stopper 10 is inserted into pipe 22, the flange 13 is compression-deformed from portion 22a to portion 22b. The flange 13 protrudes into the inner surface of the perimeter wall 21 while head portion 11 comes into close contact with the outer edge portion of pipe 22 and it is restored due to its elasticity. As a result, stopper 10 is held in stable state in injection pipe 22 (see in particular page 4, line 2 to page 5, line 26 of the translation into English).

HATSUKAZU sets forth that when stopper 10 is held in injection pipe 22, portion 12b is fitted with portion 22b without interval. Therefore, in combination with a closure force produced by the engagement between flange 13 and the inner edge surface of portion 22b, injection pipe 22 is closed and liquid leak is prevented.

HATSUKAZU further sets forth that the interval formed between portion 12a and portion 22a serves as a space where air escapes when stopper 10 is inserted in injection pipe 22. Accordingly, insertion of stopper 10 can be effected with less force (see in particular page 5, line 26 to page 6, line 2 of the translation into English).

Therefore, in HATSUKAZU, flange 13 can prevent the liquid synthetic resin fluid from passing into pipe 22. HATSUKAZU's concerns about liquid leaks are alleviated and that the formation of a projection on the outer perimeter of the plastic lens being molded is prevented (see page 6, lines 18 to 30, page 6 lines 6 to 10 and page 3, line 37 to page 4, line 9 of the translation into English).

It is notable that in HATSUKAZU, the portion 12b of the body 12 has no free end. One end of 12b is connected to a portion 12a of body 12 and the other end is connected to flange 13.

In contrast, the instant claims of the present invention recited "with said first portion of the body (25) having a free end". The portion of the body (26) of the plug (5)

adapted to fit tightly in the first section (21) of the filling hole (19) with a free end. Since one end is connected to the second portion of the body (25), the free end is the end opposite to the second portion, which is the end, turned to the moulding cavity when the plug is inserted.

This is directly against the teaching of HATSUKAZU that a flange (13) is needed.

The method seal and device according to instant claims are therefore neither disclosed nor suggested by HATSUKAZU. Also, MATOS et al. fails to address the deficiency of HATSUKAZU discussed above.

HATSUKAZU thus does not anticipate a claimed embodiment of the present invention. One of ordinary skill and creativity would not produce a claimed embodiment of the present invention from acknowledge of HATSUKAZU or the combination of HATSUKAZU and MATOS et al. A *prima facie* case of unpatentability has thus not been made.

These rejections are believed to be overcome, and the rejection thereof is respectfully withdrawal.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement and the Request for Continued Examination of filed June 4, 2009.

The rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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